

**Appl. No.** : **10/084,689**  
**Filed** : **February 26, 2002**

**AMMENDMENT OF CLAIMS**

**A. Withdrawal of Claims**

Please withdraw Claims 14-28.

**B. List of Pending Claims**

Claims pending are:

1. A suturing device, comprising:
  - a sheath having a proximal end and a distal end, said distal end configured to enter soft tissue when moved in a first direction;
  - a sheath handle at said proximal end of said sheath;
  - a suture slidably disposed within said sheath and having a proximal end and a distal end;
  - a suture handle at said proximal end of said suture, said suture handle configured to move said suture within said sheath when moved relative to said sheath handle; and
  - a suture hook at said distal end of said suture, said suture hook within said sheath when said suture handle is located a first distance from said sheath handle, said suture hook expelled from said sheath when said suture handle is positioned to a second distance from said sheath handle, said suture hook deploying upon said expelling to resist movement of said suture in a second direction substantially opposite said first direction.
2. The suturing device as described in Claim 1, wherein said suture hook is a J-hook suture hook.
3. The suturing device as described in Claim 1, wherein said suture hook is a T-bar suture hook.
4. The suturing device as described in Claim 1, wherein said suture hook is integrally formed with said suture distal end.
5. The suturing device as described in Claim 1, wherein said suture hook is selectively attachable to said suture distal end.
6. The suturing device as described in Claim 1, wherein said suture is a wire suture.
7. The suturing device as described in Claim 1, wherein said suture is a braided suture.

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8. The suturing device as described in Claim 1, wherein said suture is a monofilament suture.

9. The suturing device as described in Claim 1, further comprising:  
a suture applicator having first and second applicator members, said suture applicator configured to move said suture handle relative to said suture sheath handle when said first and second applicator members are moved relative to each other.

10. The suturing device as described in Claim 9, wherein said suture applicator is operable with one hand.

11. The suturing device as described in Claim 9, wherein said suture applicator facilitates said expelling of said suture hook and said first and second directions are substantially perpendicular to a surgical field.

12. The suturing device as described in Claim 9, further comprising:  
a flange on a distal end of said suture applicator to regulate a penetration of said sheath within said soft tissue.

13. The suturing device as described in Claim 9, further comprising:  
a lock substantially preventing movement of the suture sheath handle relative to the suture handle.

29. An arteriotomy tool comprising:  
a tubular body, said distal end of said tubular body having a sharpened edge to cut through and sever tissue upon rotation of said tubular body, and  
a hook provided at said distal end of said tubular body to hold said severed tissue.  
30. The arteriotomy tool as described in Claim 29 wherein said hook is provided through a guide channel within said tubular body.